

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/927,444

Applicant(s)

WARD ET AL.

Examiner

Sean P. Shechtman

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 13 June 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 45-52.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 August 1301 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/29/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 45-52 are presented for examination. Claims 1-44 have been cancelled.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Regarding the information disclosure statements filed 7/1/02, 9/19/02, 4/25/03, 10/9/03, 12/31/02, 4/25/03, 11/19/02, 12/18/03, and 3/29/04. The examiner has reviewed and considered all the cited references and has determined that most references appear to be commensurate with the state of the art of semiconductor manufacturing and are not necessarily specific to determining the patentability of the claimed invention. Examiner has initialed the references that are considered pertinent to the instant application and has lined through the remaining references that are not considered to be material to the patentability of the claimed invention. If the applicant feels that one of the lined through references is material to the patentability of the application and should be cited on any possible printed patent document, it is requested that that document be pointed out in the response to this office action.

Drawings

3. Objections withdrawn due to the amendment.

Specification

4. Objection withdrawn due to the amendment.

Claim Objections

5. Objection withdrawn due to the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Rejections withdrawn due to the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. Rejections withdrawn due to the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. Rejections withdrawn due to the amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 45-52 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Li teaches collecting historical process data without overwhelming real time process control.

And, Cho teaches a wafer lot dispatching system that selects the most suitable equipment for a succeeding process.

Neither of these references, taken either alone or in obvious combination disclose a semiconductor wafer fabrication system or method having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: receiving "a request from an external application to qualify the first and second chambers for a first requested process".

Also, there is no motivation to combine the Cho reference with the Li reference to meet these limitations. It is for these reasons that applicant's invention defines over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean P. Shechtman whose telephone number is (703) 305-7798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P. Picard can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SPS



Sean P. Shechtman

July 29, 2004

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100